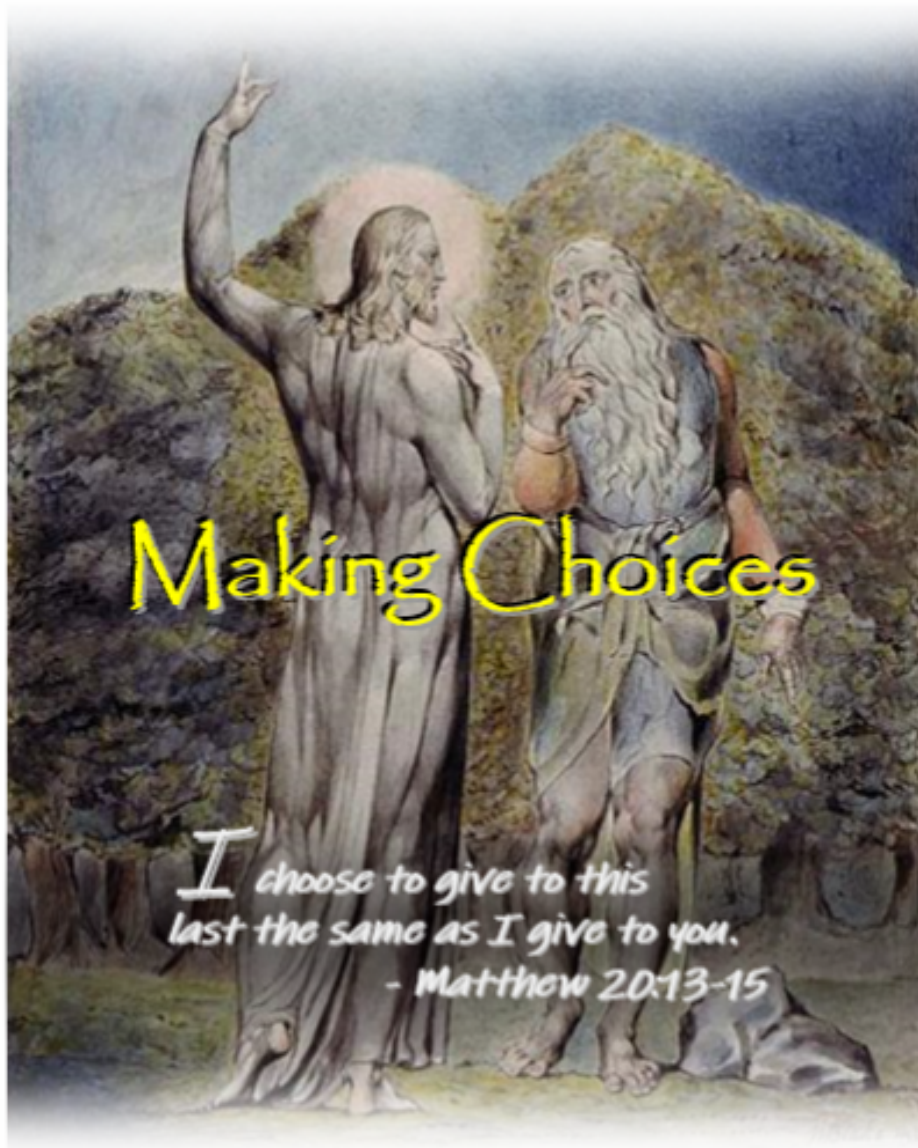


*The New Church of Montgomery*

*Sunday Worship*  
Peter Toot

November 6, 2022



In all of us there is a sense of what ought to be, which will not let us rest until we do give ourselves to its demands. It bids us rise above our lower nature and to seek the worth and meaning of life in our endless spiritual possibilities. It stirs our concern for all people and for a better world. Where does this yearning come from, if not from a God whose love dwells in the inmost recesses of our souls and is drawing us to himself, refreshing us in his image and likeness? We see this image and likeness in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, risen and glorified, who has come again in the truth, power and glory of his holy Word as He promised He would.

*from the 1982 Book of Worship*

Cover Art

*Christ Tempted by Satan to Turn the Stones to Bread (~1817)*

William Blake (1757-1827)

Pen, wash, ink & watercolor,

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK



## Prelude

*Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

- Maranatha! Singers

## Welcome & Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Happy are those who choose and draw near to dwell in your courts!  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

## Lighting of the Community Candles - An Affirmation

We light the first candle to honor the good and truth to be found in all spiritual traditions.

We light the second candle to honor the Earth and all of life as the creation of the Divine, God of us all.

We light the third candle to honor and support the variety of our individual paths, which together make our one spiritual community.

We light the fourth candle to honor and provide an open and safe place for all who seek greater understanding and a life of deepening spirituality.

## Anthem:

*This Little Light of Mine*

- Caleb & Kelsey

## Sharing of God's Word

Exodus 15:24-26

And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?' <sup>25</sup> He cried out to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made for them a statute and an ordinance and there he put them to the test. <sup>26</sup> He said, 'If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in his sight, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.'

## Sharing of God's Word (cont.)

### Judges 9:7-15

Jotham stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and cried aloud and said this parable unto the citizens of Shechem, who had made Abimelech king:

<sup>8</sup> The trees once went out to anoint a king over themselves. So they said to the olive tree, "Reign over us." <sup>9</sup> The olive tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my rich oil by which gods and mortals are honored, and go to sway over the trees?"

<sup>10</sup> Then the trees said to the fig tree, "You come and reign over us." <sup>11</sup> But the fig tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my sweetness and my delicious fruit, and go to sway over the trees?"

<sup>12</sup> Then the trees said to the vine, "You come and reign over us." <sup>13</sup> But the vine said to them "Shall I stop producing my wine that cheers gods and mortals, and go to sway over the trees?"

<sup>14</sup> So all the trees said to the thorn bush, "You come and reign over us." <sup>15</sup> And the thorn bush said to the trees, "If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

### AE 638 [6]

These words of Jotham signify that the citizens of Shechem were not willing to have celestial good, which is the "olive tree," nor the truth of that good, which is the "vine," nor moral good, that is, external celestial and spiritual good, which is the "fig tree," to reign over them, but the evil of falsity, which appeared to them as good, which is the "thorn bush;" the fire from this is the evil of lust; the "cedars of Lebanon" are things rational which are from truths. In most places the olive tree and the vineyard are mentioned together, which is done because of the marriage of good and truth in every particular of the Word; for "olive tree " and "oil" signify the good of the church, and "vineyard" and "wine" the truth of that good.



Olive trees and vineyard

## Sharing of God's Word (cont.)

### Matthew 4:1-10

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>2</sup> He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

<sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' <sup>4</sup> But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

<sup>6</sup> saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you" and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "



The Temptation of Christ (c.1502)  
by Juan de Flandes (1460-1519)  
Oil on panel  
National Gallery of Art,  
Washington D.C.

### AE 730[4]

He is said to have been tempted by the devil, to signify that He was tempted by the hells whence evils come, thus by the worst of the hells; for these were the hells that chiefly fought against the Lord's Divine Love, the love reigning in those hells being the love of self, and this love is the opposite of the Lord's love and thus of the love which is from the Lord.

## Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Hymn:**

*Lord of all Hopefulness*

- Peter Anderson

**Message**  
Pete Toot

*“Making Choices”*

**Offertory & Meditation:**

*Hope Rising*

- Tony Anderson

**Congregational Response**

**Hymn:**

*In Christy There is no East or West*

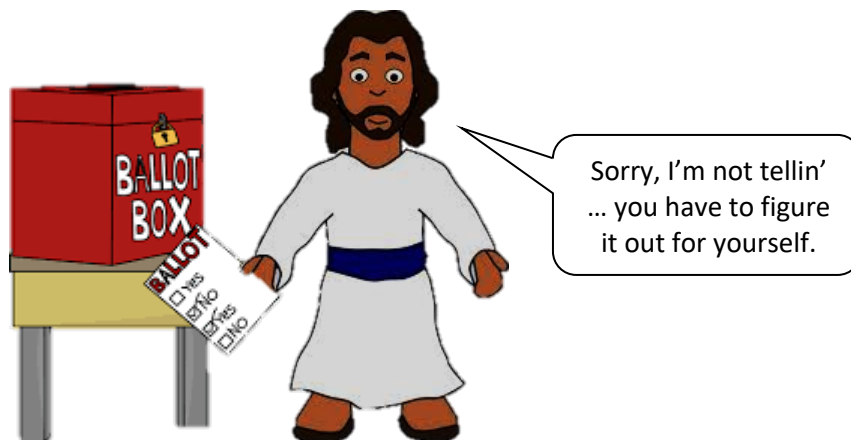
- FPCW Sermons

**Closing Prayer**

**Closing Song:**

*Go Now In Peace*

- Peter Shaw



## October 30, 2022 Announcements

**Swedenborg Study Group** – Consider joining this open online group that will be meeting next **Wednesday evening, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. We will be starting on page 72 of *When Tragedy Strikes*. Gloria can provide a Zoom invitation on request.

**Board of Directors** meets on **Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM** online. Finishing up the planning for the Annual Meeting will be the main topic.

**Harvest Feast** – Our Annual Harvest Feast is coming up on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. A feast it will be, at the church, and we will share a meal with our friends from the Glendale Church. Eileen is getting it organized and will be checking with you, if she hasn't already, on who is contributing what goodie to add to the menu for Ohio.

### NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Annual Meeting** – **December 11, 2022** will be the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. All Active Members of the New Church of Montgomery are expected to attend and take part in the service and business meeting that day. There are several things on the agenda for the future of the Society, so please put it on your calendar. More information to come.

**Glendale Elementary School Support** – We are helping the students at the school across the street from the church. They are mostly in need of boys-style clothing in sizes 5-12. This includes socks and underwear. Coats are great, too. The school keeps some coats on hand for kids to use at recess if they don't have one. You may drop them off to Maggie Panyko to deliver, or directly to Glendale Elementary's main office c/o Lisa. Please make sure clothes are in new or good shape (no holes, stains, smells etc.) You can have things shipped there, too, to **930 Congress Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45246**. If you do put in the notes, "Delivery from 8 AM - 4 PM."

**Cancelling NCOM Involvement in Weddings** – No one joined Gloria in volunteering to meet with prospective couples at the church and she cannot do it alone. It is good for stewardship for the church as NCOM receives a generous portion of the receipts for each event. The plan is to continue through **November 15<sup>th</sup>**, and to drop out after that.

## NEW CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY



### WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

#### NOVEMBER

11/6	Pete Toot
11/9	Study Group
11/13	Glendale Sunday
11/20	Gloria Toot / <b>Harvest Feast</b>
11/27	Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly

#### DECEMBER

12/4	Rev. Clark Echols / <b>GNC Service</b>
12/11	Rev. Ron Brugler / <b>Annual Meeting</b>
12/18	Rev. Catherine Lauber

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